

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A multi-channel audio system comprising:

an electronic apparatus having a back panel with at least four audio signal output terminals for a plurality of channels, said at least four audio signal output terminals including a front right audio signal output terminal for a front right channel, a rear right audio signal output terminal for a rear right channel, a front left audio signal output terminal for a front left channel, and a rear left audio signal output terminal for a rear left channel, said back panel being located on a rear portion of the electronic apparatus;

a plurality of speakers for generating acoustic output for each of said plurality of channels in a form of audio signals output from said audio signal output terminals; and

a plurality of connecting cable members, each of said cable members incorporating a pair of conductor members bearing a pair of polarities and sheathed by one of a plurality of insulating sheathing members for connecting said electronic apparatus to said plurality of speakers,

in which the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged to the right of both of the front right audio signal output terminal and the rear right audio signal output terminal on the back panel as viewed when facing the rear portion of the electronic apparatus, and the rear left audio signal output terminal is arranged to the right of both of the front right audio signal output terminal and the rear right audio signal output terminal on the back panel as viewed when facing the rear portion of the electronic apparatus,

in which the front right audio signal output terminal is arranged on top of the rear right audio signal output

terminal, and the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged on top of the rear left audio signal output terminal, or in which the front right audio signal output terminal is arranged below the rear right audio signal output terminal, and the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged below the rear left audio signal output terminal,

each of said audio signal output terminals is distinguished by one of a plurality of different respective colors for enabling each of said plurality of channels and black and white colored marks for a pair of polarities to be discernable,

a name of a corresponding audio output channel, a pair of polarities, and a colored mark that shows discernment corresponding to channels of the respective output terminal is displayed surrounding the respective output terminal on the back panel of the electronic apparatus whereat the audio signal output terminals are located; and

each of the plurality of connecting cable members is distinguished by one of said plurality of colors corresponding to a color distribution of said colored marks surrounding each of said audio signal output terminals, and

said distinction of each of said plurality of connecting cable members is implemented by a plurality of thermally contractile tubes each bearing a black and white color mark to discern said plurality of connecting cable members, and

one end of said connecting cable member has a plug connector structure fitted with said pair of conductor members in the form of a pair of coupling holes respectively connected to two conductor portions wherein each of said plug connector structure has a different respective color corresponding to the color distribution of said plurality of colored marks surrounding said audio signal output terminals;

said audio signal output terminals conform to a socket connector structure coupled with said plug connector member formed on one end of said connecting cable member;

each said socket connector mounted on the back panel of the electronic apparatus has a pair of connecting pins bearing a pair of polarities and position-controlling ~~means~~ member for matching said polarities when an other of said plug connectors is coupled with said socket connector;

said pair of coupling holes are to be coupled with two connecting pins and said plug connector includes a position-controlling ~~means~~ structure coupling portion to be coupled with said position-controlling ~~means~~ member of said socket connector for matching said polarities;

~~each of said socket connectors is distinguished by one of a plurality of distinctive mating structures, each of said plug connectors is distinguished by one of a plurality of distinctive mating structures, and said mating structures of said socket and plug connectors are adapted to allow mating only between said socket and plug connectors that correspond to the same channel of said plurality of channels.~~

6.-11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The multi-channel audio system according to claim 5, wherein one of said plug connector members is secured to each end of each of said plurality of connecting cable members and one of said socket connectors is secured to each of said plurality of speaker terminals, wherein said plug connector members on each connecting cable member are the same color.

13.-15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A multi-channel audio system comprising:

an electronic apparatus having a plurality of audio signal output terminals compatible with at least four of a plurality of channels and being mounted on a rear panel thereof, said at least four audio signal output terminals including a front right audio signal output terminal for a front right channel, a rear right audio signal output terminal for a rear right channel, a front left audio signal output terminal for a front left channel, and a rear left audio signal output terminal for a rear left channel, said rear panel being located on a rear portion of the electronic apparatus;

a plurality of speakers for generating acoustic output for each of said plurality of channels in the form of an audio signal output from each of said plurality of audio signal output terminals, wherein a plurality of colored labels are attached respectively to rear surfaces of said plurality of speakers, and wherein each colored label has a different respective color; and

a plurality of connecting cable members each having a pair of conductor members bearing a pair of polarities and colored marks to discern polarities, and each of said plurality of connecting cable members are individually sheathed with an insulating sheathing member and used for connecting said electronic apparatus and said plurality of speakers,

said audio signal output terminals are arranged corresponding to expected positions of said plurality of speakers such that the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged to the right of both of the front right audio signal output terminal and the rear right audio signal output terminal on the back panel as viewed when facing the rear portion of the electronic apparatus, and the rear left audio signal output terminal is arranged to the right of both of the front right audio signal output terminal and the rear right audio signal output terminal on the back panel as viewed when facing the rear portion of the electronic apparatus, in which the front right

audio signal output terminal is arranged on top of the rear right audio signal output terminal and the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged on top of the rear left audio signal output terminal or in which the front right audio signal output terminal is arranged below the rear right audio signal output terminal and the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged below the rear left audio signal output terminal, said plurality of channels provided for said electronic apparatus are individually distinguished by a name of a corresponding audio output channel, a pair of polarities, and a plurality of different colored sheets affixed respectively surrounding said audio signal output terminals to visually discern individual channels, wherein a color distribution of said colored sheets corresponds to a color distribution of said colored labels; and

said plurality of connecting cable members is provided with specific different colors corresponding to a color distribution of said colors of said plurality of colored sheets respectively surrounding said plurality of audio signal output terminals for visual discernment of individual channels and corresponding to a color distribution of said plurality of colored labels affixed to said plurality of speakers,

said distinguishing of each of said plurality of connecting cable members is performed using a plurality of thermally contractile tubes each bearing a black and white color mark to discern said plurality of connecting cable members,

one end of each of said plurality of connecting cable members has a plug connector structure fitted with a pair of coupling holes bearing a pair of polarities each connected to two conductor portions, wherein each said plug connector structure has a different respective color corresponding to the color distribution of said plurality of colored labels and said plurality of colored sheets;

each of said plurality of audio signal output terminals conforms to a socket connector structure mounted on the rear panel of the electronic apparatus and has a pair of coupling pins for coupling with the coupling holes said plug connector member;

said plug connector member has position-controlling ~~means~~ structure for matching said polarities when coupled with one of said socket connector members; and

each of said socket connector members has a position-controlling ~~means~~ member coupling portion coupled with said position-controlling ~~means~~ structure of said plug connector member for matching said polarities;

~~each of said socket connectors is distinguished by one of a plurality of distinctive mating structures, each of said plug connectors is distinguished by one of a plurality of distinctive mating structures, and said mating structures of said socket and plug connectors are adapted to allow mating only between said socket and plug connectors that correspond to the same channel of said plurality of channels.~~

17.-32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) A multi-channel audio system comprising:

an electronic apparatus having a back panel with at least four audio signal output terminals for a plurality of channels, said at least four audio signal output terminals including a front right audio signal output terminal for a front right channel, a rear right audio signal output terminal for a rear right channel, a front left audio signal output terminal for a front left channel, and a rear left audio signal output terminal for a rear left channel, said back panel being located on a rear portion of the electronic apparatus;

a plurality of speakers for generating acoustic output for each of said plurality of channels in a form of audio signals output from said audio signal output terminals; and

a plurality of connecting cable members, each of said plurality of connecting cable members incorporating a pair of conductor members for connecting said electronic apparatus to said plurality of speakers,

in which the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged to the right of both of the front right audio signal output terminal and the rear right audio signal output terminal on the back panel as viewed when facing the rear portion of the electronic apparatus, and the rear left audio signal output terminal is arranged to the right of both of the front right audio signal output terminal and the rear right audio signal output terminal on the back panel as viewed when facing the rear portion of the electronic apparatus,

in which the front right audio signal output terminal is arranged on top of the rear right audio signal output terminal, and the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged on top of the rear left audio signal output terminal, or in which the front right audio signal output terminal is arranged below the rear right audio signal output terminal, and the front left audio signal output terminal is arranged below the rear left audio signal output terminal,

~~each of said socket connectors is distinguished by one of a plurality of distinctive mating structures, each of said plug connectors is distinguished by one of a plurality of distinctive mating structures, and said mating structures of said socket and plug connectors are adapted to allow mating only between said socket and plug connectors that correspond to the same channel of said plurality of channels.~~

34.-37. (cancelled)

38. (new) The multi-channel audio system of claim 5, wherein the position-controlling structure has two slits of different depth, in which one slit has a depth allowing insertion of said position-controlling member, and the other slit has a depth inhibiting the insertion of said position-controlling member.

39. (new) The multi-channel audio system of claim 5, wherein each of the plug connector structure and the socket connector structure has an asymmetric cross section such that one polarity thereof has a shape different from that of the other polarity.

40. (new) The multi-channel audio system of claim 16, wherein the position-controlling structure has two slits of different depth, in which one slit has a depth allowing insertion of said position-controlling member, and the other slit has a depth inhibiting the insertion of said position-controlling member.

41. (new) The multi-channel audio system of claim 16, wherein each of the plug connector structure and the socket connector structure has an asymmetric cross section such that one polarity thereof has a shape different from that of the other polarity.

42. (new) The multi-channel audio system of claim 33, wherein one end of said connecting cable member has a plug connector structure fitted with said pair of conductor members in the form of a pair of coupling holes respectively connected to two conductor portions

wherein said audio signal output terminals conform to a socket connector structure coupled with said plug connector formed on one end of said connecting cable member;

each said socket connector has a pair of connecting pins bearing a pair of polarities and position-controlling

member for matching said polarities when an other of said plug connectors is coupled with said socket connector;

said pair of coupling holes are to be coupled with two connecting pins and said plug connector includes a position-controlling structure coupling portion to be coupled with said position-controlling member of said socket connector for matching said polarities.

said position-controlling structure has two slits of different depth, in which one slit has a depth allowing insertion of said position-controlling member, and the other slit has a depth inhibiting the insertion of said position-controlling member.

43. (new) The multi-channel audio system of claim 42, wherein each of the plug connector structure and the socket connector structure has an asymmetric cross section such that one polarity thereof has a shape different from that of the other polarity.